

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 17th December 1904.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Al Punch* [Bankipur] of the 3rd December has the following :—

The Kabul Mission.

Most probably the Kabul Mission will demand the following from the Amir:—

AL PUNCH,
Dec. 3rd, 1904.

- (1) A Political Agent from the Government of India to be stationed at Kabul.
- (2) The Amir should consult the British Government in all matters connected with the Russo-Afghan frontier, and in times of emergency should make over those places to the British Military Officers.
- (3) Railways may be extended up to the Russian frontiers.
- (4) English trade may be encouraged in Afghanistan.

The following counter-demands may be made to the Mission by the Amir:—

- (1) An Afghan Ambassador may be stationed in London.
- (2) His allowance may be increased and he may be deemed as an independent Sovereign.
- (3) He may be allowed to open relations with other foreign powers.

It is beyond the range of possibility for the British Government to concede, at present, to any one of them. The news of the Mission has created an alarm among the frontier tribes. The Government would do well to strengthen the friendly relations now existing between the two countries.

2. Writing about the Russo-Japanese war, the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, [Burdwan] of the 6th December, observes that the parties to this conflict, namely, Russia and Japan, are

The Russo-Japanese war.

the followers of the religions of Christ and Buddha, respectively, both of whom agree in regarding charity as the highest virtue. Yet they do not seem to have yet tired of shedding each other's blood. Civilised Europe is content to look calmly on the struggle from a distance, and to reap immense profits by selling the munitions of war and other necessities to the belligerent powers. It thus appears that, to the European, considerations of money count for more than considerations of friendship and religion. The continuance of this war means pecuniary advantage to some of the European Powers, and its cessation means loss to them. If Europe and America had tried to stop the war, numerous lives would have been saved, and a great deal of misery and suffering averted. But where do we see any sincere efforts at intervention?

Another interesting thing to note about the attitude of the European Powers in this war is their observance of the rule of neutrality. The rule is that they should help none of the powers at war in any way; but the strictness of this rule is being relaxed a good deal in practice. Furthermore, Powers in alliance with one of the belligerents do not feel the least scruple in helping the other belligerent by selling to the latter all sorts of necessities. The chances, therefore, are that the war is not going to end soon. It will end only with the total ruin of one of the parties. The Russians are a prolific race, and will be able to carry on the struggle indefinitely. It is Japan who will come out worsted in the struggle, and the fall of Japan would mean the fall of all Asia. This is the certain issue of the war.

3. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta], of the 12th December, says that

The European Powers and Japan.

Europe is now afraid of the yellow bodied Chinese and Japanese. It is known by the name of the Yellow peril there. It is this peril which has induced all Europe to sympathise with Russia. America and Great Britain are apparently the friends of Japan, but both these Powers are commercial Powers and it is no relying on them, for they would not risk their own interests by siding with Japan in its struggles.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Dec. 12th, 1904.

4. The *Aryavarta* [Ranchi], of the 10th December, fears that the Koweit question may result in a war between Turkey

The Koweit question.

and other European Powers in the Persian Gulf, as the Porte, in order to re-establish its suzerainty over that State which, of late, with the consent of England, has asserted its independence, has despatched a

ARYAVARTA,
Dec. 10th, 1904.

punitive force towards it, and Germany and Russia have also sent their warships to the Persian Gulf.

HINDI BANGAVARI,
Dec. 19th, 1904.

5. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta], of the 12th December, says—so the ever-expected Russia's invasion of India is now assuming a serious form. A number of Sikhs live in Russian

Manchuria and are enlisted in the Russian army; considering themselves happy they are now inviting their co religionists in India to join them, holding out false inducements. Of course the Indian Sikhs will not follow the example of their vagrant brethren, but it must be noted that Russia has, by this clever move, created a certain cause of anxiety for our English rulers. There are people who seem to remain contented with the idea that Russia is at present involved in a war in the Far East and would not be able to raise its head for another ten years after the termination of this war, but its activities in the near East go to show that it considers the present as the most opportune moment for invading India.

HINDI BANGAVARI,

6. The same paper says that at first the Government of India declared that it would not occupy any portion of Tibet and then we were told that it will only occupy the Chumbi valley; and now we hear that a military officer with a number of soldiers has been stationed at Gyantse. It is to be seen what news comes next.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

CHARU MIHIR,
Nov. 29th, 1904.

7. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh], of the 29th November, complains of the over-assessment of the chaukidari-tax in the villages of Mahodpur, Chandicharan, Dighirpar, Mahinandu, Kataberia, and Brahmanakachuri in the Subdivision of Kisorganj in Mymensingh. The following specific instances are mentioned :—One Lakshman Mestri who goes on one meal a day has been assessed to 9 annas; Loknath Mestri in similar condition has been assessed to the same amount; Sasi Mohan De, in debt to the extent of Rs. 10, very poor, to 12 annas; Kailas Chandra De, almost a beggar, to 9 annas; Ram Gobinda Seal, a blind man, in distressed circumstances, to 9 annas; Sheikh Ali Mahmud, a seller of *tikia* [charcoal-cakes used for smoking purposes] to 12 annas, and so on.

CHARU MIHIR.

8. The same paper observes that the public are still in ignorance of the lines on which Government intends to deal with the question of Police reform. But the public have long formed their own opinion of the necessary conditions of any real reform, and what these conditions are have been indicated many times in the columns of this paper. The first of these is the complete severance of the Magistracy from the police. Then, again, nobody feels the utility of the present class of District Superintendents of Police. This post and that of Assistant Superintendent should in future be filled by better qualified persons, who have passed the test of the Civil Service examination. Further it is desirable that the lower ranks should be filled by educated men. But the mere selection of educated men is not enough. They should be placed above the reach of temptation by being paid higher salaries.

But this suggestion of increase of salaries in the lower ranks of the Police raises an apprehension in the public mind that the adoption of it will only facilitate the employment of Eurasians in larger numbers in the force. There is no doubt that the employment of Eurasians as Sub Inspectors will prove a terrible curse to the country. It will add a hundred fold to the existing oppressions. Now-a-days, with a native police, protests against their oppressions are sometimes heard. But with the oppressions of a Eurasian or European police the natives would be compelled to bear in silence. It is thoughts like these which raise alarm in the minds of the native public at every suggestion of Police reform.

9. Referring to a statement in the *Daily News* that the papers relating to the Police Commission's Report would reach the Secretary of State for India this week, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta], of the 10th December, expresses its astonishment that the above papers should not have reached England yet, and adds that Government is in a fix about this matter. Could not then Lord Curzon say that the papers are missing and that all efforts to trace them have been in vain?

BHARAT MITRA,
Dec. 10th, 1904.

10. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta], of the 12th December, also notices the above statement and asks "how long is this going and coming to continue?"

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Dec. 12th, 1904.

11. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla], of the 30th November, observes that Sir Andrew Fraser, in the course of his recent St. Andrew's Dinner speech, charged the native press with unjustly finding fault with the motives of Government. But a little consideration should have convinced His Honour that in this case the blame lies not so much with the press, as with himself. For Government has now got into a habit of conducting all its affairs in secret, and keeping the public in complete ignorance of measures that affect them vitally. Naturally, under such circumstances, the people indulge in all sorts of conjectures. The procedure adopted by Mr. Savage in connection with the inquiry into the Panchayet system he is now conducting furnishes an illustration in point. His object is to devise methods for improving the existing system, and the three districts of Dacca, Tippera and Hooghly have been selected as the places where a trial is to be given to the new system. Mr. Savage has been at Comilla for about ten days now, but up to the present he has not consulted a single leading native gentleman of the place about his new scheme. The local educated community are quite in the dark as to his intentions. It is only the officials, whether in active service or retired, who are being taken into confidence. There is no doubt that in undertaking the improvement of the Panchayet system, Sir Andrew Fraser was actuated by the best of motives. Why then is the matter being kept a secret from the native educated community?

PRATINIDHI,
Nov. 30th, 1904.

12. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh], of the 6th December, says that the proposal of investing panchayets with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class would be likely to produce good results at many places, but it is doubtful whether fit and proper persons for the office of panchayet would be available at every place in the mufassal. In many places Honorary Magistrates do not enjoy the confidence of the public. *Daladali* (party feeling) runs high in villages and the zamindar has ceased to be the *ma bap* of the raiyats. Educated men, too, live in towns. Mr. Savage will have to handle his task with the greatest caution.

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 6th, 1904.

13. The *Palliwasi* [Kalna], of the 7th December, suggests that Mr. Savage, who has been appointed by Government to report on chaukidari reform in Bengal, should take note of the fact that no respectable villager will consent to serve as panchayet unless freed from the tyranny of the police.

PALLIWASI,
Dec. 7th, 1904.

14. Referring to the recent appointment of a special officer to enquire into and report on the question of the improvement of the village chaukidari system, the *Prasun* [Katwa], of the 9th December, draws attention to the oppressiveness of the existing system. It is pointed out that unjust assessment of taxes, oppression on the poor, sending in of false reports, misappropriation of public money, are every-day practices with panchayets. The causes of this state of things are—(1) the low character of the men who fill the posts; (2) the absence of public opinion in the villages which might act as a restraint; (3) the presence of factions in village life, which necessarily makes the panchayet the enemy of one party or another.

PRASUN,
Dec. 9th, 1904.

Under the system of reform suggested by Mr. Savage, the special officer referred to, it is proposed to invest the panchayet with petty judicial powers, both civil and criminal. How far this suggested change will tend to the good of the country is a problem the future alone can solve. There is no doubt that Government is animated by a good motive in this case. But it is to be sincerely hoped that no proposal of increased taxes would crop up with this suggested reform. The chief argument against the suggestion, however, is the danger of the new panchayet magistrates abusing their powers.

ARYAVARTA,
Dec. 10th, 1904.

15. Referring to the proposed chaukidari reform for which Mr. Savage has been placed on special duty, the *Aryavarta* [Ranchi], of the 10th December, says that the chaukidari tax, instead of doing any good is a source of great hardship to the masses.

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 6th, 1904.

16. A correspondent writes to the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh], of the 6th December, that several suspected characters of Rajnagar, Rowile, Kanibagh and other villages in the Mymensingh district have been sent up by the Police officer of Kendua under section 110 of the Indian Penal Code. On the 22nd November last, a man on horse back attacked one Bhasabhuiyan of Rajnagar, an influential man in that quarter, near his house and murdered him on the spot. It is believed that the *budmashes* suspected him of giving information to the police against them. This incident has created a panic all round. The writer prays Government to take due notice of the reign of terror that prevails in this part of the district.

HINDUSTHAN,
Dec. 10th, 1904.

17. The *Hindusthan* [Calcutta], of the 10th December, complains that natives, irrespective of rank, who pass by the Garden Reach Road at Kidderpore, near Calcutta, are assaulted with sticks by certain Eurasians who practise bicycle-riding on this road. The attention of the Commissioner of Police is drawn to the matter.

ARYAVARTA,
Dec. 10th, 1904.

18. The *Aryavarta* [Ranchi], of the 10th December, learns that only the European police have been provided with apparatus for physical exercise, free of cost, but is not aware of the native police being similarly provided. Are the native police to be spectators only?

(b)—Working of the courts.

KHULNA,
Dec. 8th, 1904.

19. The *Khulna* [Khulna], of the 8th December, makes the following allegations against Babu Ramkamal Gupta, Deputy Magistrate of Khulna:—

(1) Land acquisition cases are not taken up for disposal on the dates originally arranged. They are postponed from day-to-day to suit his own convenience, and as no other date is definitely announced, parties are harassed by being compelled to attend every day.

(2) The sittings of his court are not held at the strictly regular hours; they begin late and continue, sometimes, until after dark.

(3) In his trial of criminal cases he is very dilatory. Often almost a whole day is taken up by the simple examination of a complainant and the defendant. His methods of hearing and taking down evidence also are objectionable. He makes witnesses stand on the platform near his own table instead of in the regular witness box.

(4) He acquits accused persons irregularly, after simply hearing the respective depositions of the complainant and defendant, without allowing the complainant to produce witnesses or other evidence. He thus violates section 244 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which directs a magistrate to "take all such evidence as may be produced in support of the prosecution" before he can record an order of acquittal.

(5) In cases arising out of land disputes, even when the accused admits guilt, there is no justification for his acting in defiance of section 234 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

(d)—Education.

KRISHNANAGAR,
Nov. 30th, 1904.

20. The *Krishnanagar* [Krishnagar], of the 30th November, complains of mismanagement in connection with the Government hostel attached to the Krishnagar College. It is alleged that the food supplied to the inmates is absolutely lacking in variety, and sometimes even consists of articles rotten and otherwise unfit for consumption. It is further stated that cases of illness among the students are not treated with proper care by Kali Babu, the doctor in charge of the local charitable dispensary, who is also *ex-officio* medical officer of the hostel. To

provide for a better supply of food in future, it is suggested that a committee of students might be formed to supervise the accounts and the marketing, which are at present solely under the control of a paid Superintendent.

21. *Al Punch* [Bankipur], of the 3rd December, is sorry that the Bengali-owned newspapers are opposing the election of Mr. Sharfuddin, Barrister-at-law, to the Faculty of Law of the Calcutta University, and says that the Musalmans, especially of Bihar, are thankful to Sir Andrew Fraser for the favour.

AL PUNCH,
Dec. 3rd, 1904.

22. In continuation of the article in its previous issue on the subject of the election of Fellows of the Calcutta University, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta], of the 4th December, notes with regret that in Bengal, where Muhammadans form one-third of the population, only three Fellows should have been selected out of a total of 64, and adds that, while formerly there were 12 Muhammadan Fellows, why men like Muhammad Yusuf Khan Bahadur, Maulvi Shamsul Huda, Maulvi Dilawar Husein Khan Bahadur, and Nawab Bahadur Amir Husein, should not have been appointed, is a question which the authorities alone can answer.

HITAVARTA
Dec. 4th, 1904.

The same paper finds that Bihar also has been similarly treated, though the private colleges there are in no way inferior to the Government colleges in efficiency. Only three Fellows have been appointed from Bihar, and even these three are officials. The paper goes on to discuss that in the first place, three Fellows cannot be considered as adequately representing a province like Bihar, as they will not be able to devote that amount of energy in the Senate which will be required for these colleges. Secondly, Bihar would be subject to all the disadvantages resulting from the appointment of official Fellows. The paper further asks the authorities to reconsider the question of increasing the number of Muhammadan and Bihari Fellows as it is not now too late.

23. Referring to the new list of Fellows for the reconstituted University of Calcutta, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta], of the 7th December, remarks:—An examination of the list shows an almost entire absence from it of the name of any member who can claim to represent Sanskrit, which possesses a special importance in the eyes of Hindus as their sacred language. It is true that there is one such Fellow in the person of Mahamahopadhyaya Hara Prasad Sastri, but is his presence in the Senate alone sufficient representation of this important interest? Can it be that Sanskrit learning in the metropolis has arrived at such a regrettable condition that nobody else among its cultivators was found worthy of the honour of a seat on the new Senate? Surely Rai Rajendra Chandra Sastri Bahadur might have been appointed. We confess that we have little respect for, and faith in, the new Senate and the new rules of the University. So we do not feel much inclined to scrutinise any defect, however glaring, in its constitution. Still, when we find that many native members are attracted to the new Senate, we naturally blame Government for failing to provide more fully for the representation of Sanskrit learning.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Dec. 7th, 1904.

24. Referring to the speech of Sir Andrew Fraser at the prize distribution of the Burdwan Raj College, in which His Honour doubted the advisability of making the whole institution free, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta], of the 4th December, thanks the generosity of the Lieutenant-Governor and the English policy, and says that Lord Curzon, by passing the Universities Act, has paved the way for banishing the goddess of learning altogether from India and measures have been adopted for extinguishing the aided colleges. And now every possible opportunity is availed of by Government officials to gain their object. It is to be seen whether the Maharaja of Burdwan will take no notice of this advice of Sir Andrew Fraser's, considering it as His Honour's personal opinion, or takes it as an indirect hint to act upon if he means to keep his *guddi*.

HITAVARTA,
Dec. 4th, 1904.

25. Referring to the proposed college at Ranchi, the *Pallivasi* [Kalna], of the 7th December, asks, how is it that Government is so unwilling to construct the hostels for the

PALLIVASI,
Dec. 7th, 1904.

students of the proposed college at Ranchi at its own expense, though it is spending huge sums on military undertakings? Would it not be awkward for the rulers to go about begging for doing good to the people?

It is of the utmost importance to make satisfactory arrangements for the teaching of all Indian languages in the proposed college. It is not clear why Government declines to provide religious instruction to the pupils. The Hindu students should be taught Hindu manners and customs according to their shastras.

There can be no objection to the establishment of a model college at Ranchi. But the proposal of raising subscriptions is open to serious objections. The zamindars of Bengal would be placed in great difficulty if they are asked to pay subscriptions in aid of the college. The apprehension that the Calcutta Presidency College would be injured does not seem to be altogether baseless.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Dec. 7th, 1904.

26. Referring to an advertisement in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 30th November last, over the signature of the Assistant Director of Public Instruction in Bengal, inviting

The value of the B. A. applications for the post of a Registered apprentice in his office on an allowance of Rs. 10 a month, in which it is stated that preference will be given to B. A.'s or F. A.'s possessing a knowledge of type-writing, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta], of the 7th December, remarks: What can be a more instructive lesson to B. A.'s and F. A.'s than this notice? The Director, through this advertisement, plainly conveys the lesson that the value of a graduate of the Calcutta University is not more than ten rupees to begin with. Even this is an exaggerated estimate, for it is only when the graduate possesses type-writing qualifications that he is worth ten rupees. Otherwise his value is even less. When such is the price put on University education, why do guardians of boys continue wasting their money? For of real education there is nothing imparted on the modern system. The only reason why a collegiate course is valued is, because it is supposed to provide a man going through it with means to earn his bread. Mr. Pedler has now taught us that in the eyes of Government the qualifications of a B.A., as such, are worth five rupees, and those of a typist graduate another five rupees. But the earnings even of a cooly amount to some thirty rupees a month. Will this advertisement of Mr. Pedler's serve to open the eyes of our countrymen?

HITAVADI,
Dec. 9th, 1904.

27. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta], of the 9th December, quotes Mr. Russell's advertisement from the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 30th November last, and remarks that though the Director wants a B.A. with knowledge of type-writing on Rs. 10 only, yet the number of candidates will probably be large. This shows to what a miserable pass the educated young men of this country have come. What can be a greater regret than that young men, after passing the B.A. Examination, are no better than coolies?

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 10th, 1904.

28. Under the heading "The Fate of the B.A." the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th December, quotes the following advertisement from a recent issue of the *Calcutta Gazette*:—

"Wanted a Registered apprentice for the office of the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, on an allowance of Rs. 10 a month. A B.A. or F.A. with knowledge of type-writing will be preferred.

C. RUSSELL,
Assistant Director of Public Instruction."

And goes on to comment on it in the following terms: "People go to a good deal of trouble and sacrifice in order to give their sons English education, because English education is supposed to enable a man to earn a decent livelihood. But in practice it is often seen that all these sacrifices go for nothing. High education in such cases appears much like the fabled Dead Sea apple. Under the new rules, Government is attempting to restrict high education to the few. There is a proverb in English about charity beginning at home. The above advertisement issued by the very head of the Education Department is apt to remind one of this proverb. A contemplation of this advertisement along with the new educational policy of Government will probably suggest the idea in the minds of many people that whatever God does is for the best. The eyes of

many among the educated classes may be opened. They may perhaps learn self-restraint enough to dispense with luxury and ease, and set about to look for means of subsistence.

29. Referring to the advertisement which appeared in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 30th November last, under the signature of the Assistant Director of Public Instruction, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta], of the 12th December, remarks--that when the head of the Education Department has fixed the salary of a B.A. typist at Rs. 10 a month, what can be expected of others?

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Dec. 12th, 1904.

30. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta], of the 11th December, has the following on the same subject:—

HITAVARTA,
Dec. 11th, 1904.

Graduate typist on Rs. 10. Alas! Have matters come to this pass? A B.A. on Rs. 10! Even a coolie in Calcutta earns Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 a month. But even for this apprenticeship, thousands of graduates would be approaching the feet of His Honour with recommendations.

31. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta], of the 10th December, approvingly quotes the opinion of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* on this subject, and asks his countrymen to say, if they would still have English education which costs them Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 a month for years to acquire and secures them a post of Rs. 10 at the end.

BHARAT MITRA,
Dec. 10th, 1904.

32. Referring to the report of Mr. Russell, Assistant Director of Public Instruction, and to the letter of Mr. Pedler, No. 587, dated the 2nd October last, to the Government of Bengal, on the subject of students' messes and hostels in Calcutta, extracts from both of which are published, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta], of the 8th December, observes that it would be a very good thing no doubt for the authorities to visit students' messes from time to time with a sympathetic heart. It is well known that many students mix in evil company and go astray. But, for that reason, to treat them as if they were convicts let loose from jail and to keep them under something like police surveillance would be a crime.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 8th, 1904.

Government wants to exercise complete control over colleges on the one hand, and to extend its full authority over students on the other. By the passing of the Universities Act the first of these objects, namely, control over the colleges and the curriculum of study, has been realized, and the second is yet to be attained. If now the students' messes and hostels could be brought under official control that object would be fulfilled.

Government seldom takes notice of the many excellent articles that appear in the *Indian Mirror*, but when an article on students' messes appeared in that newspaper, Government at once resolved to take action. Mr. Russell, a Professor of the Presidency College, immediately on being appointed as Assistant Director, issued out to inspect such messes. On receipt of Mr. Russell's report, Mr. Pedler wrote a letter to Government supporting the proposal to appoint an officer for the purpose of inspection. A conference was held to consider Mr. Pedler's letter, in which Mr. Pedler, Babus Surendra Nath Banerji and Umes Chandra Dutta and others were present. Babu Surendra Nath Banerji proposed that Boards of Management should be constituted for the purpose of enforcing the observance of any rules that might be adopted. Babu Umes Chandra Dutta said that it was too early yet to say that the existing regulations were not effective. As the regulations were tried to be enforced by private colleges only from June last, it was very true that they had not a sufficient trial. Whatever that may be, how was it that Mr. Pedler lost his temper all on a sudden? He said that he had the power of stopping grants-in-aid, and of forbidding the sending up of students for the scholarship examinations, and that this fact should be borne in mind. The writer is amazed at these words of rebuke used by Mr. Pedler.

It is no wonder that the Principals of the Presidency College and the General Assembly's Institution, as well as Mr. Wheeler of the Bangavasi College, gave their assent to the two rules laid down by the Sub-Committee, namely, (1) that all students belonging to a particular college should live together, and that (2) Government would take lease of houses which would be placed at the disposal of the college authorities for use as students' messes. It is, however, strange that the Principals of the Metropolitan, City and Ripon

Colleges should have agreed to these rules. If they had any reliable knowledge of students' messes, they could never have done so. Instances are not uncommon in which it will be found that of three brothers one is a student of the Medical College, one of the Presidency College, and the other of the Ripon College. Under the above rules, the three must live in different places. Parents and guardians in the mufassal would feel greatly inconvenienced by such an arrangement. Students belonging to the same district or those related to each other help each other in their distress, take care of each other in their illness, read each other's books and help each other in their studies. It is to be regretted that even the native members of the Sub-Committee took no notice of these considerations.

It was his intimate knowledge of the condition of the students that led Sir Gooroodas Banerji to remark that it was not necessary for the students of each college to live in a separate hostel. But nobody paid any heed to his words. The writer concludes by warning that repentance is sure to follow the neglect of a wise man's saying.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Dec. 9th, 1904.

33. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta], of the 9th December, remarks that the fact that the question of the provision of suitable mess and hostel accommodation for mufassal students in Calcutta has attracted the attention of

Government, is a hopeful augury that it will receive a solution at last. It is pointed out that the atmosphere of Calcutta works a great change on the character of the students after they come from the mufassal. Many of them succumb to the temptations of a town life. And some of them even pay the penalty of an early death as an expiation for their sins. And then again the construction of a Calcutta mess-house is a thing worth describing. The landlords in Calcutta build a peculiarly unhealthy description of houses for use by students. Light and air are almost always conspicuous by their absence, and the drains are a constant menace to the health of the occupants. The effect is that students living in messes are almost always debilitated both in mind and body.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 9th, 1904.

34. A correspondent sends the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta], of the 9th December, the following question on arithmetic which was set at the Middle Vernacular Examination in the Manbhum district:—

"The cost of carpeting a room 16 feet 6 inches long, 12 feet 3 inches broad with carpet at Rs. 3 per yard was Rs. 148-8. Find the breadth of the room,"

and remarks that the breadth of the room is given, how then could it be determined? The language of the question was also defective.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Dec. 14th, 1904.

35. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta], of the 14th December, draws attention to certain irregularities in connection with the scholarship examination held this year at the Burdwan Municipal School

Hall—(1) The question papers were received only in single copies. The examinees had, therefore, to make copies of them to dictation. (2) As regards the oral portion of the examination, no question paper was received at all, so that Babu Rasik Lal Das, Sub-Inspector of Schools, who was superintending the examination, was instructed to frame questions on the spot. As no programme of the examination was previously furnished to Rasik Babu, the order and timing of the various subjects of examination were far from satisfactory. Questions were asked under the head of object lessons which are not strictly justified by the regulations on the subject. In the examination on map pointing, the wall-maps were converted into table-maps, that is, the maps instead of being hung on the wall were laid flat on the writing tables of the examinees. The effect was that only portions of the maps could be seen at a time. Moreover one of the two maps on which the students were examined was printed in English. At the examination in drill all the students were not permitted to show their proficiency in all the exercises. At the examination in English reading, different passages were given to different scholars to read out. In some cases again, the passage to be read was restricted to two consecutive sentences only. No interval for refreshments was allowed to the examinees generally.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

36. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong], of the 8th December, draws attention to several instances of mismanagement in the Chittagong Municipality. Baksir Hât and Namar Bazar are in a totally neglected condition. The dust nuisance is intolerable. The conservancy arrangements are deplorable. The sweepers very seldom do their work. The mehters need looking after. Drinking water is scarce, and almost all the tanks are in a neglected condition.

JYOTI,
Dec. 8th, 1904.

37. The *Khulna* [Khulna], of the 8th December, notices the outbreak of an epidemic of malaria of a virulent character in the town of Khulna. It is pointed out that the present epidemic quite beats in intensity the outbreak of former years. The local population has already suffered a decrease in the course of the last ten years owing to this cause; and unless speedy means of relief are found, it is probable that twenty years hence the locality will become almost uninhabited. It behoves the local Municipality to be up and doing at the present crisis, attending to the water-supply and the drainage.

KHULNA,
Dec. 8th, 1904.

38. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna], of the 10th December, draws attention to the excessive prevalence of fever, dysentery and diarrhoea in the town of Khulna. Expert medical assistance is scarce. It is pointed out that in the course of a short time the public health of this town has undergone a sudden change for the worse. Not to speak of malaria and diarrhoea, which are present more or less throughout the year, virulent epidemics of cholera recur regularly twice or thrice in the year. The causes of this state of things may be traced—(1) to the pollution of the Khulna river by the salt water from the sea, and (2) to certain unwise acts of the local Municipality. Of these latter, attention is called to the following three:—

KHULNAVASI,
Dec. 10th, 1904.

(a) The Municipality insists on all holes and pits in the compound of any house being filled up. As earth is not easily available for this purpose, street sweepings which include rotten vegetables and sometimes rotten animal carcasses, also are used. During the rains, the water acting on this decomposed vegetable and animal matter sets up a foul smell which is a prolific source of malaria and diarrhoea.

(b) A similar use is being made of street sweepings to fill up the holes caused on the riverside road by the erosion of the Bhairab. The river water enters these filled up holes during flood-tide and similarly gives rise to foul effluvia.

(c) There are certain public privies situated to the south side of a well-frequented road and a populous quarter of the town. These privies are not kept properly cleaned by the Municipal mehters, and are not protected by sufficiently high walls. The condition of two of these privies is particularly mentioned in illustration of the truth of this charge, viz., one on the Cemetery Road, and another in front of the fish-stall in the market.

39. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta], of the 10th December, notices the terrible havoc wrought over the whole country by malaria. The attention of the authorities has been called to the state of things on many previous occasions, but they do not appear to be making any efforts at redress. Unless speedy relief is obtained there is risk of the entire country being turned into a desert. The present is the season when the epidemic is at its worst all over the province. The paper invites its correspondents in the mufassal to furnish exact details, which it will publish, about the number of deaths and the arrangements for medical relief and water supply in each village under report.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 10th, 1904.

40. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th December remarks:—

It is to be regretted that Government, although it might not go so far as to substitute the old Municipal Act in place of the new in consideration of the numerous serious defects pointed out by the Special Committee and freely admitted at the municipal meeting itself, should yet have done nothing

HITAVADI,
Dec. 9th, 1904.

to remedy those defects. We could never imagine that the whole thing would end in a *fiasco* after such a long time.

When Sir Andrew Fraser took over charge of the administration of Bengal, His Honour's attention was attracted to the grievous shortcomings of the Municipality. It was also said that after the completion of the enquiry into the malpractices in the Income-tax Office, those of the municipal officers would be enquired into. We therefore took it for granted that, when once His Honour's attention had been directed to municipal matters, the much-needed reforms would be forthcoming. But, to the misfortune of the inhabitants of Calcutta, His Honour's mind changed, so much so indeed that far from examining the causes which prevented reforms being introduced into the Municipal Office during the last five years, His Honour went to the length of accepting the brief of the municipal officers and of pleading in their behalf in a long Resolution. Where, then, is the hope of municipal reform?

The other day in his speech at St. Andrew's Dinner, His Honour plainly said that he was displeased with adverse criticism in newspapers. Still, in the performance of our duty we are constrained to incur his displeasure. The Special Committee recommended that in view of the defects and imperfections in the present Municipal Act, it should be replaced by the old Act. But His Honour has rejected the proposal on the ground that it was not unanimously accepted by the Commissioners at the municipal meeting. It is needless to say that His Honour would have done wisely by pointing out the defects of the old Act. As, however, the old Act was not altogether free from shortcomings, we are not particularly sorry that it has not been renewed. But may we enquire what steps have been taken by His Honour to remedy those irregularities and defects which were pointed out by the Special Committee and which Mr. K. G. Gupta and Mr. Allen, the Chairman, and others, who sided with Government, were compelled to admit? His Honour took the members of the Special Committee to task for exclusively finding fault with the Municipality, but was it not equally blameworthy on His Honour's part only to sing its praise? Was it for the purpose of being revenged upon the Special Committee for its fault-finding that His Honour wrote:—

"The Lieutenant-Governor is fully satisfied that the period since the passing of the Act of 1899 has been one of continuous and, for the most part, successful effort after reform?"

Are not these words of His Honour's an exaggeration? Is he not convinced that under the present *régime*, owing to the Chairman and other high officers of the Corporation being invested with extensive powers, the Commissioners have been reduced to something like puppets? Does His Honour not believe in his heart of hearts that although the ratepayers' money is being lavishly squandered away and the European officers are having a fat share of it, yet the work that is being done is insignificant in proportion to the amount spent? If he does not, then we must declare, without the least hesitation, that he has not personally inspected anything of municipal matters but has merely "tasted the soup through another's mouth" and borrowed his remarks from the Resolution of Sir James Bourdillon, the late acting Lieutenant-Governor. For a provincial Governor to do such a thing is not a trifling matter, and the magnitude of his fault can be well imagined if, after fully realising the worthlessness of the present Municipal Act, His Honour deliberately shut his eyes to its blemishes and supported the municipal officers.

That Sir Andrew Fraser has realised, at least partially, the defects of the Municipality, will appear from the following words of His Honour:—

"The Special Committee of the Corporation reviewed the Chairman's Report in a very thorough manner and rendered good service in drawing attention to defects which demand careful attention."

But what steps has he taken for remedying these defects? Why should people be satisfied with the curious reply of the physician who says that the malady, though serious, will disappear as soon as the patient recovers? This fact, namely, that the malady disappears as the patient gets well, is too well known to need the assurance of His Honour; the only regret is that he did nothing to eradicate the malady. While the ratepayers were groaning under municipal mismanagement, the Commissioners and even the officers of the Municipality, unable to remedy its defects, in their despair applied to Government for taking necessary action. His Honour said that the work was going on

well and that he was "fully satisfied" with it! If now, after hearing these honeyed words, the public refused to disbelieve what they saw before their eyes and to accept as gospel truth the words of His Honour for no other reason than that they were said by one of his exalted position, would they be held guilty of an enormity? Is it for this reason that His Honour prefers illiterate and ignorant villagers to the educated townspeople? May we enquire if such a sorry attempt to establish one's reputation and influence does not serve only to destroy them?

His Honour pictures a very hopeful future for the Municipality. In eight years the greater part of the debts would be paid off and a balance of more than nine lakhs would be left in hand. Should there be any difficulty, the rates might be increased from $19\frac{1}{2}$ to 23 per cent. So, then, if the poor *kala admi* are unable to pay the tax, they must leave the town and repair to villages to fall victims to malaria. Though there are defects in the Accounts Department, the pay of the accountant has been raised from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,250. This arrangement will benefit a European, and His Honour has therefore taken it for granted that the defects of the Accounts Department will soon be rectified. The delay in making arrangements for continuous water-supply, for the supply of unfiltered water, and in completing the suburban drainage scheme was due, not to any fault of the officers of the Municipality, but to the misfortune of the ratepayers. His Honour has expressed satisfaction at the due realisation of the tax from the ratepayers. This indeed is a very good reason for singing the praise of the Municipality.

The Assessor's Department, the Building Department, and Mr. Gainsford, the reputed Secretary, have all been praised by His Honour. Mr. Gainsford will probably soon get an increment to his pay. His Honour did not think it necessary to take any notice of the inconvenience and trouble which persons coming in contact with the Building Department had to undergo. He has done his duty by granting a certificate to the municipal officers. If after this anyone should venture to question the correctness of His Honour's statements, he will surely be held guilty of sowing the seeds of disaffection in the country.

The Resolution is full of the praise of municipal officers from beginning to end. The elation of these officers at this result is no doubt great, but it is in direct proportion to the depression of the ratepayers at the prospect of their impending doom. If we should sound a discordant note His Honour would be displeased. Let us therefore say—Thanks to Your Honour, thanks to your sense of justice, thanks to your appreciation of worth! We fail to comprehend why Mr. Allen should have dragged Mr. K. G. Gupta all the way from Darjeeling to Calcutta to support his own cause when the Report of the Special Committee was to be discussed, although there was such a sincere well-wisher of the Municipality in the person of His Honour.

41. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca], of the 12th December, publishes the following in English:—

The Dacca Municipality.

The Municipality of Dacca is apparently reserving its energies and storing up its funds for the purpose of expending them when the town becomes the seat of the newly-formed Province. It will be then and then only that it will show to the world what great things it is capable of. At present, when there are no eyes of great administrators to look upon and admire its achievements, the people may well be left to shift for themselves.

Jest apart, at present cholera and small-pox of a virulent type have broken out almost in an epidemic form in the town and the victims of these fell diseases are to be counted by scores. But while such ravages are being made by these diseases, the Municipality is not putting forth all its energies to stem their progress. Even in the broadest streets, one has to wade through thick volumes of dust, and whenever a carriage passes, it leaves behind it a blinding trail of dust which drives way-farers to all sides. The drainage system shows no special signs of improvement and the privies are not regularly cleaned. The Municipality of Dacca has always had an unenviable reputation in these respects, but never were its alleged shortcomings felt to such an extent as at present, when the terribly insanitary condition of the town, due to whatever causes, should have roused it to gigantic efforts. What is being done to stem the progress of the diseases is to our mind far from sufficient. Fortunately, cholera is showing signs of abatement. But the rapidity with which small-pox is spreading in

DACCA GAZETTE,
Dec. 12th, 1904.

many quarters of the town in this very depth of winter makes us apprehensive that this dreadful visitant intends to make a long stay and that it will require herculean exertions to stamp it out. It is extremely to be regretted that the gravity of the situation has not yet been fully realised by the Municipality.

As a precautionary measure, we would suggest—

- (1) Regular flushing of drains twice a day, besides watering the streets most efficiently with a copious supply of water.
- (2) The burning of tar and sulphur in large quantities in every street and lane and congested *busti* every evening.
- (3) Profuse use of other disinfectants.
- (4) Strict supervision over mehters' work so that the privies may be regularly and thoroughly cleansed, specially those belonging to houses infected.
- (5) Prompt measures ought to be taken to get the houses disinfected where the disease has made its appearance and the bedding, &c., &c., of the victims burnt.
- (6) Disinfecting the wells more largely than is being done now.
- (7) The Municipality should distribute broadcast in the town printed leaflets containing instructions as to diet, drink, &c., during the prevalence of these diseases.
- (8) To publish daily reports giving the number of deaths, &c., from the disease, thereby allaying, to some extent, unnecessary panic caused by unfounded wild rumours, so rampant in the town in these days.

To give effect to the above suggestions we think the Municipality should appoint a Special Committee with the Civil Surgeon as its president, and under the Committee there should be a special gang of coolies, sweepers, mehters, and overseers to carry out their orders.

We hope Mr. Rankin, who is always on the alert to remedy a defect as soon as it is brought to his notice, will try his best to impress upon the Commissioners the gravity of the situation and the responsibility resting on their shoulders. For, single-handed, he can hardly be expected to cope with the extra work in this connection.

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

HITAVARTA,
Dec. 4th, 1904.

42. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta], of the 4th December, has the following:—

Condition of the Surajpur Estate
under the Court of Wards.

On the death of Raja Rajeshwari Prasad Singh of Surajpur, in the district of Arrah, leaving behind him only two infant sons, and a debt of five lakhs of rupees, the estate was taken under the Court of Wards on the 17th June 1903, and placed in charge of Munshi Norangi Lal, a retired Deputy Collector. But although the annual income of the estate is two lakhs of rupees, yet nothing has been paid in liquidation of the said debt. The history of the debts is that the Raja Saheb was advised by the Collector of Arrah to borrow a sum of one and-a-half lakh of rupees at $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum for contributing towards the water-works of the Arrah town. This sum has now with the interest due thereon amounted to rupees three lakhs. Besides, the Raja Saheb did not accept any compensation for the lands valued at three lakhs of rupees acquired by Government from his estate for the Sone Canal. The Government officials are prohibited from accepting any presents from anybody, and the Government itself accepts no such presents, but one cannot make out if this amount of three lakhs, not paid by the Government to the deceased father of the present Raja Saheb, was a bribe, a present, or a gift.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

CHARU MIHIR,
Nov. 29th, 1904.

43. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh], of the 29th November, points out that

A steamer complaint.

the existing difficulty of communication between Tangail and Mymensingh would be greatly lessened if arrangements could be made for the Assam Mail steamer to touch at Porabari. The present means of communication is by the Goalundo-Jagannathganj service. But these steamers are very unpunctual and often fail to reach Jagannathganj in time to connect with the railway train to Mymensingh. What is wanted is a fast service between Goalundo and Jagannathganj, like that now in existence between Goalundo and Narayanganj. There is no fear of an

adequate number of passengers lacking for such a service. The grievance is a crying one and has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the local Government officers.

44. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah], of the 10th December, draws attention to certain inconveniences to passengers on the Howrah-Amta Light Railway. It is pointed out that the carriages are not properly cleaned. The condition of the cushions on the seats is regrettable. The carriage-doors are locked for convenience of checking-tickets, but as there is not a proper number of ticket-collectors, passengers are kept confined for an unnecessarily long time. Then again there is no waiting accommodation provided for the passengers at Howrah ghât. The public roads where they are crossed by the railway line are full of holes and ruts, making it difficult for ordinary carts and carriages to cross at such places.

HOWRAH HITASHI,
Dec. 10th, 1904.

45. A correspondent of the same paper draws attention to the damage caused to the surrounding fields by the erection of a *bund* across the "Madiar Haor" canal in the Jhenida subdivision of the Jessore district. It is pointed out that during the rains the flood-water used to come in through this canal and irrigate the surrounding fields. But about ten years ago a *bund* was put up across the canal, because it was found that the flood-water caused damage to the local Sundaria indigo plantation. But as this plantation ceased to exist about four years ago, it is suggested that the *bund* may now be removed and the old facilities of the villagers for water-supply restored. As to the cost of removing the *bund*, it is pointed out that the villagers themselves are ready to pay, so greatly do they feel the necessity of it.

HOWRAH HITASHI.

46. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta], of the 14th December, says that the road from Shahanagar Road to No. 30 Russa Road is too narrow for the traffic which passes over it. Pedestrians are often compelled to get into the surface drains on the sides of the street to save themselves the risk of being run over by passing vehicles.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Dec. 14th, 1904.

It is further pointed out that though the road between Tollyganj thana and Prince Baktiyar Shah's Road is not very narrow, the excessively high speed at which the electric tram-cars run here is dangerous. The succession of accidents which have recently occurred there has created a feeling of general alarm among the local people.

(h)—General.

47. Referring to the partition question, the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh], of the 29th November, writes:—
The Partition of Bengal. The partition of Bengal, in whatever shape it may be carried out, will mean the ruin of the Bengali people. Those who will refrain from agitation at this terrible crisis are traitors to their fatherland. Those who having the power do not exercise it in the interests of their country at the present moment are worse than robbers. We do not know if there is any expiation for the sin of those who, to please the Government, are now following a suicidal policy.

CHARU MIHIR,
Nov. 29th, 1904.

In this day of impending doom, there is no difference of interests between East and West Bengal. North Bengal and South Bengal are equally threatened with danger. Unless a deep echo of protest rises from every centre of population in Bengal, there is no hope of the country being saved. Lord Curzon evidently anticipated that the proposal to have a Lieutenant-Governor instead of a Chief Commissioner, as originally proposed, as the head of the new Province, would silence all opposition from the people and impair the force of any agitation that might spring up again. His Excellency must be made to understand that the Bengalis are not ignorant barbarians and cannot be seduced into agreeing to the partition of their country in any shape whatever. As soon as he steps on the soil of Bengal he will see what a terrible agitation is convulsing the country. In this matter he is not the final authority. He will have to bow his head before the unconquerable opinion of the English

people. If local agitation does not bear fruit, the assistance of that powerful English public opinion must be enlisted on our side. Without a moment's further delay we should set about to secure that co-operation.

SWADESH,
Dec. 13th, 1904.

48. Referring to the Partition Question, the *Swadesi* [Barisal], of the 13th December, makes the following appeal to Lord Curzon :—

The Partition of Bengal.

We entreat your lordship to give up this idea if you wish to leave a good name behind you--if you wish to secure an undisputed hold on the hearts of the people of Bengal and to appear before the world as a just ruler. If you yield, the breath of your fair fame will sweeten the four quarters of the world. You are a high-minded statesman; so we can rely that our arguments will not be addressed to you in vain like the pouring of water on sandy soil.

CHARU MIHIR,
Nov, 29th 1904.

49. Referring to the question of the selection of a head-quarters town for the new district which it is proposed by Government to create out of the existing Tangail and Jamalpur Subdivisions of the district of Mymensingh, the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh], of the 29th November, protests against the rumoured action of Mr. Thomson, the District Magistrate, in recommending to Government the claim of Jamalpur to occupy this position.

It is pointed out that the object in partitioning the existing district is threefold (1) to afford relief from overwork to the Magistrate, (2) by reducing the area to afford better opportunities of personal inspection to the Magistrate, (3) to bring justice nearer home to suitors from places like Tangail to whom the present head-quarters town of Mymensingh is difficult of access, owing to distance and want of suitable means of communication.

It may be conceded that the selection of Jamalpur offers no obstacle to the realisation of the first of these objects. But if this object were all that had to be considered, there is no need of selecting a new head-quarters town at all. For in that case, as suggested by Mr. Teunon, the late District Judge, Mymensingh itself might continue as the head-quarters of the new district also, and there would simply have to be an addition of the necessary officers.

But, examined with regard to the second and third objects mentioned above, the claims of Jamalpur appear to be weak indeed. For Jamalpur is now connected by rail with Mymensingh and is only three hours' journey from the latter town. In regard to Tangail, therefore, so far as the distance and, consequently, facility of inspection by the Magistrate are concerned, both Jamalpur and Mymensingh are much in the same position. Suitors from Tangail who now travel by way of Jagannathganj will find both Mymensingh and Jamalpur equally accessible, for both these places are connected by rail with Jagannathganj. To those again who travel by the Kaorail road, Jamalpur is at a greater distance than Mymensingh. This is from the point of view of Tangail. As regards the convenience of the Jamalpur people, both Jamalpur and Mymensingh are connected by rail, so the one place is almost as convenient as the other to them.

It thus appears that the choice of Jamalpur will not much benefit anybody. Why then did Mr. Thomson recommend its claims? Probably it was the impression that Tangail is a hot-bed of malaria. But is Jamalpur a very healthy town? Everybody well knows that it is subject to periodical epidemics of cholera and pox.

The best solution of the difficulty seems to be the selection of some suitable site midway between Jamalpur and Tangail. Some such sites have already been noticed in a previous issue of this paper [see Report on Native Papers in Bengal for the week ending the 8th October 1904, paragraph 49]. Another site is referred to as follows: some eight or ten miles to the south of Bansi Railway Station, there are the villages of Jhopna, Mutsuddi, Bhabanipur, Saya Ipsiarpur, etc., covering a piece of high land, extending for three or four miles. The ground is enclosed on two sides by the Atai and the Bairan, the former of which is a perennial stream. There can thus be no difficulty about a constant supply of pure drinking water here.

HITAVANTA,
Dec. 4th, 1904.

50. Referring to an address presented to His Honour in his recent Burdwan tour by the Muhammadan community of Burdwan, in which they prayed for the revival of the competitive examination system for

The competitive examination
for the Provincial Service.

admission to the Provincial Service, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta], of the 4th December, remarks that we cannot but thank the Muhammadans for their courage and love of justice, but are grieved, nay ashamed, to notice the meanness of the reply given by His Honour, which was to the effect that it was in the interests of the Muhammadan community that the competitive examination was abolished. The paper asks if this feeling of kindness to the Muhammadans is genuine or if some political motive does not underlie it.

51. In noticing the recently gazetted appointments of four new Sub-Deputy Magistrates, viz., Mr. N. B. Pettar, Babu Nagendranath Dewan, Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad, M.A., and Babu Radhaprasad Mukerji M.A., B.L., the

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 8th, 1904.

Sanjivani [Calcutta], of the 8th December, points out that two of the new nominees are without degrees, and remarks, that is an excellent example of the Lieutenant-Governor adhering to his promise

52. Referring to the appointment of the British officer who is coming out to India, to represent the Foreign office in the settlement of certain differences that have arisen between Lord Curzon and the Foreign office, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta], of the 4th December, remarks that when the officer is coming in the interest of both India and England, why should England not pay half his salary? It is to be regretted that the British Government, boasting as it does of its sense of justice and enlightenment, should be so unfair towards innocent India.

HITAVARTA,
Dec. 4th, 1904.

53. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong], of the 8th December, suggests that an impartial high official should be deputed to enquire into the illegalities of the Forest Department, and says that much more serious blemishes will in that case come to light than what has been published in that paper.

JYOTI
Dec. 8th, 1904.

54. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta], of the 10th December, writes:—
The native press when it sees anything praiseworthy in a high official can never be said to be lacking in due appreciation of it. For instance the recent transfer of Mr. Inglis, the Commissioner of Burdwan, called forth a unanimous chorus of eulogy and regret from the local public. A similar case is noticed in the *Jyoti*, the Chittagong paper. The official referred to in this case is Mr. Leighton, the Subdivisional Officer of Cox's Bazar in Chittagong, recently under orders of transfer to Dinapur in Patna. In commending the amiability of the departing officer, the *Jyoti* remarks that Mr. Leighton was equally kind and familiar with the *amla*, the *vakils* and the students. His purse was always open to the call of distress. He was solicitous about improving the educational facilities of the local students. As a judicial officer he was particularly careful to see that the parties to a suit were subjected to no unnecessary harassments. The entire local public regret his transfer.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 10th, 1904.

It is needless to say that officers of the type of Mr. Inglis or Mr. Leighton are worthy of all honour from the people of India. They may have no public meetings to eulogise their services or no statues to commemorate their names, but all the same they are sure of a permanent place in the hearts of the people.

III.—LEGISLATION.

55. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta], of the 10th December, complains of the delay in filling up the vacancy in the Bengal Legislative Council caused by the expiry of the term of office of Rai Tarini Persad Bahadur. It is pointed out that the Council is to meet on the 17th December next and that Government has not yet fixed the date on which the various delegates are to meet and make their recommendation in favour of the new member. It is the turn of the Municipalities of the Rajshahi Division to elect a member this time. The Municipalities got notice of this in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 6th October last, and since then they have all done their part of the business by selecting the delegates who are to vote for them. All that is now wanted, therefore, is for Government to fix the date on which the delegates may meet for the final voting. This date should

DAILY HITAVADI,
Dec. 10th, 1904.

The election of a member to the Bengal Council vice Rai Tarini Persad Bahadur.

have been fixed earlier, in view of the approaching re-assembling of the Council, for it is desirable that the non-official element should always be as strongly represented there as possible.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

HITAVARTA,
Dec. 4th, 1904.

56. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 4th December remarks that the enforcement of Plague Rules, although relaxed in the British territory, is getting more stringent in the Native States in India, in consequence of which poor travellers are being put to serious inconvenience. At Jhabua Raj, a station about 8 or 10 miles from Meghnagar railway station, some females who were going to see their relations at Rutlam were detained, although they had no signs of any disease nor had come from any infected area. They had no provision either of food or winter clothing and had to starve there for four days. They escaped outrage at the hands of the pahrawallas (policemen) only owing to the presence of some seven or eight other persons who had also been detained there. The police thanadar who was a Muhammadan would not let them go, although requested to do so by one Kewal Lal Sharma. Thereupon the matter was brought to the notice of the Chief of Jhabua. Two or three Muhammadan females who came from plague-infected stations were not detained. The paper, in inviting the attention of the Native Princes and their officials to the removal of the grievances, fails to understand why, when the rules have been withdrawn even in the British territory, they should be allowed to remain in force in the Native States.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

HITAVARTA,
Dec. 4th, 1904.

57. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 4th December invites the attention of the Government to the deplorable condition of the crops in Western Bengal similar to their condition in Western India. There has not fallen a drop of rain during the months from *Aswin* to the present time in the districts of Burdwan, Bankura, Birbhum and Manbhum, where the condition of the crops is very bad and the estimated outturn is four annas only.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 6th, 1904.

58. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 6th December writes:—

The Lieutenant-Governor's
speech at St. Andrew's Dinner.

If it is true that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor consulted some native gentlemen on the subject of the establishment of the Ranchi College, that was because he had the question of the funds for that College to solve. Otherwise it is doubtful whether he would have thought it needful to be so generous as that. His Honour knew that the project would fail if sufficient funds were not subscribed by the people. The whole of Bengal feels great uneasiness on the question of the partition of Bengal, but did Government consult the views of the people on this question? It is useless to multiply instances like this, as Government shews by its action what importance it places upon the wishes of the people. Government disregards the opinions of persons who deserve to be the fit representatives of the people, but accepts the views of those who are guided by its wishes. How can the people then put faith in these latter class of persons?

His Honour complains that people impute unworthy motives to him where no such motives really exist. But who is responsible for this? Government holds secret conferences behind a screen impervious to the public gaze on matters of vital importance. The public are left in the dark and cannot judge of the motives of Government. Under the circumstances it is only natural that misconceptions should arise. His Honour's displeasure with the public is not therefore well founded.

We perfectly agree with His Honour in his estimate of the worth of His Excellency Lord Ampthill. His Excellency, though young in years, possesses exceptional abilities, and if he had been appointed permanent Viceroy in the place of Lord Curzon, our country would have been saved

from various calamities. The high praise which the Lieutenant-Governor has bestowed upon Lord Curzon will find no echo in native society. We however find nothing to complain of in this tribute of praise by His Honour; we rather think that it was quite natural on his part.

The President's remarks upon India and Indians have pleased us. Everybody will be sincerely happy to hear that His Honour entertains such kindly feelings towards the country and its people. Generally speaking, Anglo-Indians are not favourably disposed towards the Indians, and on many occasions their ill-feelings become quite evident. His Honour has done wisely by giving much valuable hints on the importance of friendly feelings between the rulers and the ruled. His Honour appears to have taken adverse criticisms in the native Press too much to heart. Very few persons seem to take note of the mischief which would follow if native papers ceased to exist.

Highly placed officials ought not to pass severe strictures upon particular sections of the community in the course of their St. Andrew's Dinner speeches. Lord Dufferin thus became very unpopular by his harsh remarks on the native public, and Sir Andrew Fraser has to some extent followed the same course. There is no doubt that most persons will be sorry to read his speech.

59. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 7th December, criticises the recent St. Andrew's Dinner speech of the Lieutenant-Governor in the following terms:—

The Lieutenant-Governor's St. Andrew's Dinner speech.

* *SRI SRI VISHNU PRIYA-O-ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA*, Dec. 7th, 1904.

The speech which Sir Andrew Fraser delivered at St. Andrew's Dinner this year was partly kind and conciliatory like the utterances of a saint and partly harsh and offensive like a man in authority giving vent to his anger. His Honour claims to possess only the friendliest feelings for the natives of this country. Yet against the native newspapers which are the only real representatives of the country, he openly vents his spleen. Sir Andrew declares that his love for India is only second to his love for his mother country.

If the country of his birth claims his love and reverence as a mother, India also has claims on him as a foster-mother. Is not this a sentiment of reverence worthy of a Saint Andrew? On the other hand the threats and offensive expressions he has used towards the native Press would appear to many persons as the mere expressions of personal ill-will. To us it seems to be a matter for shame and disgrace that a person who can carry the burden of the administration of a large province of the Empire is lacking in strength to put up patiently with such a small thing as adverse newspaper criticism. Sir Andrew is old, both in age and experience. Have we not therefore a right to expect from him a greater self-restraint as regards the language he uses? It does not befit the dignity of an administrator whose position should command universal respect to lose his temper at every bit of criticism directed against his acts and like ordinary persons to enter the arena and attempt a reply to such criticism. We have a great respect for Sir A. Fraser because he is our ruler. But let Sir Andrew himself answer this question. He has given public expression to his deep love for our people and our country. The same people are now greatly agitated and deeply pained at the thought of the approaching Partition of their mother-land. How much of sympathy has Sir Andrew been able to show with them on this occasion? What is he doing now to make the Government of India acquainted with the deeply stirred feelings of his subjects on this question? Has he, again, exhibited independence and judgment by abolishing in favour of nomination the competitive examinations for the recruitment of the Provincial Civil Service? The native Press voices native feelings on these questions in a tone of wailing protest. Who can say that these protests and criticisms are inspired by hate? If, considering all His Honour's acts and speeches, one expresses the opinion that he is a most obedient servant of the Government of India, who can say that such an opinion is unfounded and unjustifiable? Sir Andrew Fraser is anxious to establish a model college at Ranchi. He is the man at the head of affairs. The natives of this country have always considered it an impertinence to argue face to face against the opinions of a superior. For the people of India are not like the people of Ireland. This is why perhaps some leading native gentlemen acquiesced in Sir Andrew Fraser's suggestion regarding

a model college at Ranchi. But many of them perhaps in their hearts regret to think of the fate which is sure to overtake the Presidency College as a result of their adoption of the suggestion. The Press therefore is taking on itself the duty of making an outspoken but respectful protest. But Sir Andrew Fraser ascribes bad motives to the editors for their criticism, and thinks that it is inspired by ill-will and hate. As he is our ruler, we cannot protest against any statement he may choose to make. It is allowed to him to be impatient and intolerant; but for ourselves, we have learnt patience and toleration in many respects, and for various reasons. We are bound to accept with bowed head any rebuke, however unjustifiable, when it comes from the lips of one placed in authority over us.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 8th, 1904.

60. Commenting on the recent speech of the Lieutenant-Governor at the last St. Andrew's Dinner, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta], of the 8th December, writes:—

The Lieutenant-Governor's St. Andrew's Dinner speech.

His Honour's speech may be divided into three parts. The first is the critical portion. There are passages devoted to showing the injustice and worthlessness of newspaper criticism in Bengal. The second is the eulogistic part. There are passages extolling Lord Curzon for his "intense regard for righteousness" and his "great consideration for the opinions and advice of others." This praising of one high official by another will probably be considered by many persons as part of a debate in a "mutual admiration society." As regards the public opinion of Lord Curzon's measures, it is doubtful if at any time the people of these provinces will be able to forgive his policy as regards education and as regards appointments to the public service, his Tibet Mission or his scheme for partitioning Bengal. In the third part of the speech, His Honour has given utterance to some very wise words about the necessity of establishing friendly relations between the rulers and the ruled. In the course of this passage of his speech His Honour expressed the opinion that the caste system offers a great obstacle to the establishment of such relations. This may be admitted as generally true. But all the same it may be pointed out that there are many natives of India nowadays who do not observe distinctions of caste and in whose case the difficulty of language also is not present. With how many of this class, it may be asked, have the officials formed any ties of friendship? His Honour further insisted that to understand the people of the country truly you must get acquainted with village life in the mufassal. We deny that to get an idea of the habits and sentiments of the people, one must necessarily resort to the unlettered village peasant. Have the officials done their best to study and to conciliate and to form friendships with the members of the educated community? The truth of this matter is that the officials have absolutely no sympathy with the sentiments and aspirations of the educated classes. His Honour himself is on this occasion advising his fellow-officials to conciliate the people. But how much sympathy with the people has he given proof of in actual practice? How much sympathy does he possess with the political aspirations of the Bengali people? His abolition of the competitive examinations, his vetoing a recent election of Chairman for the Maniktala Municipality, and thereby restricting the rights of local self-government, his most injudicious support of the Calcutta Municipality,—how little have these recent measures of his contributed to establish friendly feelings between himself and the educated classes of Bengal? Memories of days passed in happy intimate intercourse with the ignorant aboriginal tribes in the Central Provinces may now appear very pleasant to the Lieutenant-Governor. In that part of India there was no public criticism to disturb His Honour's repose. For in his present sphere of action he feels harassed by criticism on all sides and cannot therefore retain his kindly sentiments. He has said many good things of the people in his speech. Still, on the whole, the general impression on reading his speech, and particularly that portion of it in which he expresses with some warmth his sentiments on newspaper criticism, suggests the conclusion that Bengal is not the proper sphere of action for Sir A. Fraser.

In conclusion, we have to notice a rumour that in actual delivery His Honour used a good deal of harsh language, but that the speech has been toned down in the reporting. Is there any truth in this rumour?

61. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta], of the 9th December, writes:—

HITAVADI,
Dec. 9th, 1904.

The Lieutenant-Governor's speech
at St. Andrew's Dinner.

As His Honour Sir Andrew Fraser was the President of the last St. Andrew's Dinner meeting, people expected to hear something from his lips about the proposed partition of Bengal, the Calcutta Improvement Scheme, and similar other questions. But His Honour carefully avoided the discussion of such topics. Throughout his long speech he dealt with personal matters. Although the occasion was not one on which such matters might with propriety be dwelt upon, yet so strongly did he feel that His Honour could not help giving expression to his feelings. We never expected that an official of his eminence and mature experience would allow himself to be carried away so far by his feelings. His Honour is annoyed at hostile criticism in the Press. He wishes perhaps that he should be lauded to the skies for whatever he does. If the people could say "Whatever the Sarkar does, it does for our good," they would probably win his esteem. But Bengalis could not say so, and it is to be regretted that His Honour should be so much irritated at the unsparing criticism of his administration in the newspapers of Bengal. How powerfully he has been affected by the unfriendly criticism indulged in by educated men in Bengal appears clear from his speech.

We admit that imputation of motives, where none exist, is a bad thing. But if what is imputed comes to be true, why should the people be held guilty? Are they to sing His Honour's praise for advising the boy-Maharaja of Burdwan some days ago to levy school-fees in his free college? However pure His Honour's motives might be which prompted him to do away with competitive examinations, people saw that the effect of the abolition of the competitive test would be to diminish the chances of the poor educated youth of the country of getting into the Government service. If the people protested against His Honour's action, should they be found fault with?

His Honour was in the Central Provinces, which are inhabited by half-educated and half-civilized people. Whatever he did there was accepted in good part without any objection. It is no wonder therefore that he should be mortified at finding that a very different state of things prevails in Bengal. Sir Charles Elliott once complained that everywhere in India, except in Bengal, he had been regarded as *ma-bap* by the people. We are sorry to see Sir Andrew Fraser placed in the same predicament as Sir Charles. If the actions of these personages be guided by the principles of justice and impartiality, then they would have nothing to fear from the criticisms of others. As to the view which the people have taken of the proposed Ranchi College, we do not think that they are wrong. Secrecy begets suspicion, and His Honour ought to take this fact into his consideration. Who is to blame for this, His Honour or the public?

Sir Andrew Fraser took the newspaper Editors to task for misrepresenting the motives of Government and thereby spreading disaffection among the people. But why did not His Honour explain to the public the duties of the rulers to the ruled? We cannot accept His Honour's complaint as true that the newspaper critics, though they do nothing for the country, yet vilify the officials who have devoted their lives to their work. Educated Indians have the capacity to appreciate the usefulness of really well-intentioned projects calculated to benefit the country, and they are equally proficient in discovering the deadly poison hidden in the poisoned pill coated with sugar which Government might offer. Does His Honour expect that the people should sound his applause for abolishing competitive examinations in order to enable less educated Eurasians and flatterers to obtain Government appointments?

His Honour said that difference of language, manners and race prevented friendly relations between the natives and Europeans. We however differ with him in this opinion. Intense hatred and dislike of the *kala admi* is at the root of the aloofness between the two communities. As long as this hatred remains in the breast of the Europeans, as long as they regard the coloured races of India as inferior beings, as long as the rulers continue to make administrative arrangements according to the difference in colour, so long it would be futile to expect real friendship between Europeans and Indians. His Honour has said that he loves the Indians. But his love for educated townspeople is not so great as his love for illiterate villagers. We never expected to hear such ungenerous

words in his mouth. However stoutly he may defend himself, there is abundant proof in his speech of his narrowmindedness and his desire for praise for all his actions.

We do not desire to say anything about His Honour's praise of Lord Curzon, his master, by means of which he has given such unequivocal testimony of his devotion to His Lordship. But if the educated Indians are unable blindly to sing the praise of him who, according to His Honour, is a model Viceroy, he ought not to feel annoyed. His Honour must make up his mind to bear with criticism in this enlightened province. Whether he admits it or not, the people of Bengal have praised him for his good actions as well as found fault with him for bad ones. To have employed bitter language for so doing has not, we are constrained to say for the sake of truth, redounded to His Honour's credit.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 10th, 1904.

62. Referring to the recent St. Andrew's Dinner speech of the Lieutenant-Governor, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta], of the 10th

The Lieutenant-Governor's St. Andrew's Dinner speech. December, writes:—

We confess to a feeling of satisfaction at reading this speech. Our satisfaction is based on the consideration that in this speech there is no trace of trickery, hypocrisy or want of sympathy. The same directness of expression and sympathetic attitude which characterised the Lieutenant-Governor's replies to addresses during his late mufassal tour are present in this speech also. His speech indicates a sentiment of heartfelt sympathy for the people of India. There may be particular points in it about which we may differ in opinion, but on the whole our feeling at reading it is one of satisfaction.

There is no doubt that in many cases the natives of India suffer owing to difference of opinion among their own leaders. Who can deny that there are many people in this country who in many cases advise Government wrongly to the detriment of the interests of their country? Many of them are perhaps well known and trusted by Government. So there is nothing surprising that Government sometimes acts on their advice and finds itself acting against the true interests of the country. It can be affirmed with confidence that in the case of at least some harmful measures of Government some natives are partly responsible. This is the misfortune of the country. It behoves Government under such circumstances to proceed very cautiously. In case of differences of opinion being found to prevail on any measure, the persons whose interests are really affected should be ascertained and their real leaders sought out and consulted. Yet in some cases when no difference of opinion is found to prevail, the officials act on mere *zid*. Considering the diversity of creeds and interests in this country, it is only natural that diversity of opinion also should prevail. Careful discrimination is therefore necessary on the part of Government to sift all public criticism of its measures. And for want of such discrimination, the people have suffered on many occasions.

His Honour has also stated that the native press are in the habit of indiscriminately attributing motives to Government.

It cannot be said that this charge is entirely without foundation. There is no denying that some editors in this country often attribute bad motives to Government to show that it is in the wrong. They do it under the impression that such a policy on their part will tend to increase the circulation of their respective papers. There is no doubt that such people have absolutely no idea of the responsibility of their position. A little consideration will show them that by their action, though their own papers may temporarily be gainers, the interests of the country at large are permanently injured. But unfortunately they do not think of these things. Of course not all the newspapers in this country are offenders in this respect. It sometimes happens that when he feels deeply on any question, an editor's feeling sometimes gets the better of his judgment and he is betrayed into ascribing a bad motive to Government. Such a lapse may not be strictly justifiable, but at any rate it is natural. Even officials sometimes make much similar lapses, when, for example they treat representations of real grievances by their subjects as false.

As regards His Honour's panegyric on Lord Curzon, we also agree with him in conceding that in all his measures Lord Curzon was inspired by good motives. While agreeing that there is nothing blameworthy in his motive,

one may all the same argue that in practice his measures have not always been inspired by wisdom. In fact Sir Andrew Fraser himself uses words which seem to support this view.

Regarding His Honour's insistence on the need of friendly intercourse between the two races, we desire to point out that the caste system is no real obstacle in this case. The natives do not desire to imitate the manners or to form ties of blood relationship with the conquering race. All that they desire is an opportunity to be able to inform their rulers of their wants and aspirations. The officials, if they sincerely desire it, can manage to acquaint themselves with some if not all the sentiments of the people. There have been many officials in the past who possessed some acquaintance with the habits and sentiments of the natives of India, and were thereby inspired with sentiments of affection for them. There is a story that a high official on one occasion paid a visit to the ancestral house of the illustrious Vidyasagar and allowed himself to be entertained there in perfect native style. There is no doubt therefore that all Europeans if they like can equally, like this official, mix on familiar terms with the natives.

We have next to draw attention to the following passage in the speech:—

"Gentlemen, we have no doubt, occasionally, cause enough to hang our heads with shame at incidents which occur in the lives of our fellow-countrymen in this country and I hope that we shall never be tempted to entertain other than a proper feeling in regard to such incidents. But I for one rejoice to think that, on the whole, Englishmen (I use this term in the broad sense in which, though a Scotsman, I fully accept it) have maintained a high character among the people of this country. I think that we should be even more successful in this respect, if we were able more thoroughly to understand the people, to become more acquainted with them, and to form friendships among them; and I think that this is well worth an effort."

There is no doubt that His Honour has given utterance to the hard truth in these lines. His Honour has gratefully admitted that the people of India wherever they meet with kind treatment from a European return it with their heartfelt gratitude and respect. The instance of the Indian laying floral tributes on the grave of Sir John Woodburn to which His Honour has referred is not a solitary one. There are thousands of other such. Indians want to be loved and to love in return.

63. Referring to the speech of Sir Andrew Fraser at the last St. Andrew's Dinner, in which His Honour acknowledged the usefulness of Press criticism, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 10th December remarks that the

Sir Andrew Fraser at the St. Andrew's Dinner.

expressions of sympathy for the people of this country from the lips of the Lieutenant-Governor have been approved in some quarters. But it ought to be remembered that the Lieutenant-Governor vetoed the election of a non-official Chairman for the Maniktala Municipality and appointed an official in his place and that His Honour found fault with five or six able Municipal Commissioners for pointing out the shortcomings of the Calcutta Corporation. As regards the improvement of the town of Calcutta, His Honour gave no hint as to what it is that the Government proposes to do.

BHARAT MITRA,
Dec. 10th, 1904.

64. In giving a summary of His Honour's speech so far as it relates to the criticism of his measures in the public Press, the same paper says that all these strictures with which the speech opened were directed against the Press, and the Lieutenant-Governor in one part of his speech tried to show that Press criticisms have been generally unfounded and worth nothing.

Sir Andrew Fraser at the St. Andrew's dinner.

After fault-finding came praise-giving, and in this part of the speech the Lieutenant-Governor followed the principles of the 'Mutual Admiration Society' and spoke highly of Lord Ampthill and very highly of Lord Curzon.

The third part of the speech deals with the relations between Europeans and Indians. His Honour remarked that the difference of religion and language are the two obstacles in the way of establishing friendly relations. But though there is no lack of English-speaking Indians nowadays, nor of such men as not only freely mix with the Europeans but are prepared even to dine with them, still how many Europeans mix with them or treat them well? Our regret is that the Europeans do not treat even such men properly. With what hopes then should others transgress the limits of their religion? It is said

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that the speech was very harsh, but was modified before being sent to the Press. If His Honour really means to establish friendly relations with the people or improve them, he should show it by his deeds and not by mere words.

His Honour's speech is calculated to frighten and scare away the educated people.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 8th, 1904.

65. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 8th December has the following :—

The quarrel between the Utkal Young Men's Association and the Industrial and Scientific Association.

An internecine quarrel has broken out between the Bengali residents of Cuttack and the Uriyas over petty matters. We cannot for bear stating that the details of the incidents have greatly pained us. The spectacle of the leaders of the people falling from the high ideal of patriotism and injuring their country's interests by mean quarrels, has filled us with regret. But the misguided son of India who in his vain attempt at self-aggrandisement betrays his country's cause and by various subterfuges fills the minds of his unsuspecting countrymen with alarm, deserves our scorn and exclusion from all participation in national affairs. It is no small regret that at the moment when a fresh vigour was being infused into the life of the Uriyas an unwarrantable cry should have been raised by an individual and his selfish associates that "the Bengalis are nobodies in Orissa." The Mourbhanj State is known to be the most enlightened in Orissa, and the Raja is distinguished for his eminent qualities. But the Keonjhar State, which is contiguous to the Mourbhanj State, is extremely backward. We learn that a Christian gentleman named Mr. Madhusudan Das and his younger brother are the most influential persons in the Keonjhar State. It is a mystery why the State, instead of prospering under the sole guidance of these two educated and intelligent men, appears, on the contrary, to be in a chaotic condition as is evidenced by frequent disturbances among the raiyats. It appears that the two Raj Kumars, though they have continued under the charge of these gentlemen for a long time, have not been properly trained. In many cases they have betrayed great weakness. The disgraceful incidents that are occurring in connection with the Cuttack District Committee of the Industrial and Scientific Association and the Utkal Young Men's Association are humiliating in the extreme. We are surprised at the exhibitions of ungentlemanliness in the Utkal Young Men's Association.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 9th, 1904.

66. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th December has the following :—

India under British rule.

A very embarrassing situation has been created in India by the meeting together of two peoples, one Eastern and the other Western. The Indian people are greatly perplexed to decide whom to follow, their renowned forefathers or the foreigners who rule India. If they should adopt the former course, their annihilation by the brute force of the Western people would become inevitable. If, again, they should allow themselves to be completely under the influence of Western materialism, their ancient civilisation and their faith, manners and customs would all be trampled under foot. None of these alternatives is desirable, and yet it is almost impossible to reconcile these two.

But a reconciliation has been effected in Japan. While retaining all the characteristic virtues of Eastern peoples, the Japanese are fully the equals of the Western nations in knowledge, arts, sciences, commerce, physical valour, and military skill. But what Japan has accomplished is impossible for India, for Japan is independent and India is under the yoke of foreigners. If Japan had been subject to a foreign nation, this reconciliation would have proved impossible also for Japan. The reason is that where there is a possibility of the interests of the conquerors and the conquered coming into conflict, it is impossible for the latter to bring about a reconciliation. The Emperor of India keeps a careful eye on the interests of his own countrymen. His Majesty may no doubt look to the welfare of his Indian subjects in matters in which the interests of the British and the Indians do not clash. But there is scarcely anything in India with which Englishmen are not concerned, more or less. The Sovereign therefore gives preference to his countrymen in all things, such as the arts, commerce, agriculture and Government service. We do not mean to say that His Majesty takes no interest in his Indian subjects. But his efforts in this direction do not produce the same results in practice as His Majesty

would desire. The reason for this becomes evident when we reflect that the Emperor cannot be expected to look to everything personally, but is obliged to delegate his authority to his servants, and it is well known that no delegated work is ever performed quite satisfactorily. It is for this reason that the commands of the Sovereign are carried out in our country in a manner very different from what was intended. If, moreover, the officials are power-loving and arbitrary, matters become far worse. Under such circumstances, there is no other course left for the subjects than to depend upon the mercy of the officials.

The Japanese people are no doubt imbued with Western sentiments. But they have not given up their national costume. Many Indians however don European dress, because by that means they are able to enjoy many advantages, which their national dress would not enable them to do. Again, the Japanese do not depend upon other countries for their necessities. But we have to depend upon Manchester for our clothes. The Indian weavers have been neglected and ruined because the weaver classes of the country to which our Sovereign belongs had their own interests to be taken prior care of. Above all, there is that curse of India, free trade, which has swept away her arts and industries. In every country there is some protection accorded to its arts and commerce, but in India we have free trade, because free trade benefits English merchants.

Japan has been enabled to reconcile the Eastern and Western civilisations by the help of the Government in all their affairs. But we get very little help from our Government even in the most important of our affairs. On the contrary, we are thwarted in our efforts at every step. The truth is, a people who are every moment heavily pressed with the burden of foreign domination, cannot enjoy free play of their limbs, as all their muscles and tendons are always contracted. This is the plight of all subject peoples. No work can be satisfactorily performed by the man who has to bear the burden of subjection upon his head. The Indians are not the only people who have to labour under this difficulty. Every nation, which has been under the yoke of another, has suffered from it.

67. Referring to the paper read by Sir Henry Cotton, a short time ago, before the Church Conference in England discussing the question "if mankind was in any way benefited by British Rule," in which the opinion was clearly expressed by him that so long as India was not allowed political freedom, her people could never be expected to show any progress, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 10th December remarks that Sir Henry had read this paper before the Church Conference in the hope of receiving their support, as they are more virtuous and dutiful than the proud officials; but it was all in vain, as some of the clergy, far from listening to it, rose to contradict the same. The paper adds that there was nothing unnatural in such a course of action on their part, as the missionaries are the pioneers of the British Empire, and the clergymen have their life of ease wherever there is British dominion.

BHARAT MITRA
Dec. 10th, 1904.

68. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 9th December assigns the following reasons in support of its opinion that Musalmans should not join the Congress:—

SOLTAN,
Dec. 9th, 1904.

- (1) The Congress has not yet succeeded in carrying out in practice a single measure of public benefit during the long course of its existence. The vast sums of money it annually collects in aid of its meetings might, if diverted to better ends, have served to remove such a crying grievance of the country as water-scarcity, for example.
- (2) The British Government has always looked on the Congress with an unfriendly eye. And until Government changes its attitude, it is chimerical to expect that the Congress will ever succeed in doing anything useful. Moreover, it is against all sense of justice and propriety to take part in a movement disapproved by Government.
- (3) At any rate, the time for the Musalmans to join the Congress is not yet. For the Musalmans are at present in such a backward condition compared with the Hindus in point of education and influence, that if they join the Congress in a body and the demands of the Congress are thereafter granted by Government, it would simply mean the establishment of a complete Hindu

predominance. The Musalmans in that case would have no chance of competing successfully with the Hindus. Moreover, they would forfeit their claim even to the little amount of favour which they now receive at the hands of Government.

HITAVARTA,
Dec. 11th, 1904.

69. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th December explains the constitution and objects of the National Congress in the following terms:—

Objects of the Indian National Congress.

The system of holding conferences is not new in India, as is evident from certain passages (quoted in the paper) contained in the *Ramayan*. In fact our present degraded condition is due to our having discontinued that system. The Congress means to revive it and raise us from that condition. In those days Rishis used to assemble in sacred places and devise various measures for the good of the people. The National Congress has the same object in view. In this Congress there are men who are devoting their very life to the service of their countrymen, whose hearts begin to sink within them at seeing the Indians so unhappy, who are trying to serve as guides to the youths of India, aimless but otherwise so industrious and intelligent, men who, in their anxiety to devise means for relieving the pangs of those dying for a morsel of food, forget their own wants. Cannot we call these men Rishis (sages of old)? Should we not show them the same honour as we do to the memory of the Rishis?

HITAVARTA.

70. The following remarks occur in an article headed "Sivaji's initiation" in the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th December:—

Cause of the fall of the Mahratta power.

The sudden and premature death of Madho Rao (Peishwa), followed by the false or fraudulent policy of the English people in pedlar's garb spreading their *net* all round, has caused the history of India to take a different turn.

HITAVARTA,
Dec. 11th, 1904.

71. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th December approves, on grounds of economy, of Mr. Sutcliff's suggestion that Government should prefer spending money on dynamite

Dynamite as a producer of rain.

for bringing about rain to spending large sums for buying food for the famine-stricken raiyats and granting them large remissions of revenue; for the cost of explosives would be much less. At the same time the paper asks Mr. Sutcliff to be patient as the British Missions are already in Kabul and Persia, and the Russian Army has received orders to proceed to the frontiers of Afghanistan. So there would be no wonder if the booming of guns and the explosion of dynamite in Persia and Kabul bring down good rains in Western India ere long.

URIYA PAPERS.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.
Nov. 30th, 1904.

72. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 30th November draws the attention of the public to a paddy-husking machine, invented by Messrs Burn & Co. of Howrah, and

A paddy-husking machine.

observes that those who can afford to purchase it should immediately give it a trial on their farms.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
AND SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Dec. 1st, 1904.

73. The same paper states that there was an earthquake at Balasore on Friday, the 25th of November last, at 1-16 A.M.

An earthquake at Balasore.

The shock lasted for 20 seconds. It was followed by another shock at 2 A.M., which lasted for less than a second. According to the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 1st December, however, the shock was felt at 1 A.M. on Thursday, the 24th of November last.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

74. Referring to the territorial redistribution scheme, which is under the consideration of the Government of India, the *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 30th November hopes that the Government will not fail to unite all the Uriya-speaking districts in India under one Provincial Government.

The territorial redistribution scheme in Bengal.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

75. The same paper is of opinion that it will conduce to the public

The Post Office and the sale of non-judicial and court-fee stamps.

advantage if the post offices in India are entrusted with the sale of non-judicial and court-fee stamps, just as they are entrusted with the sale of postage and receipt stamps. The suggestion, if adopted, will save the public from the oppression of stamp vendors, who generally charge an extra fee for their labour.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

76. The same paper supports the action of Government in connection with the Chairmanship of the Maniktala Municipality and observes that an inexperienced young man should never be put in charge of the affairs of an

The Maniktala municipal election.

important Municipality. The writer supports his contention by pointing to the Balasore Municipality, which greatly suffered for a few years under the administration of a young Indian, who had very little municipal experience.

77. The same paper reverts to the complaints of the domiciled Bengalis in Orissa and hopes that Government will treat them as natives of Orissa when distributing the public patronage.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Nov. 30th, 1904.

Domiciled Bengalis in Orissa
and the public patronage.

78. The same paper observes that as Rai Radhanath Rai Bahadur, the Government pensioner, has distinguished himself by his literary productions both in Uriya and in Bengali, he should be allowed a larger pension, and quotes the case of Babu Chandranath Bose, the late Bengali Translator to Government, as a precedent.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

79. The same paper reports that cholera has appeared in Balasore town.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

80. According to the same paper the Raja of Nilgiri has succeeded in catching thirty elephants of different sizes and ages.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

81. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 3rd December says that a new paper, by name *Samajmitra*, has been started at Barakhemundi for the purpose of opposing the tenets preached by the *Sanskarak* newspaper of that place. The writer hopes that the *Samajmitra* will prove a real friend of the Hindu society.

GARJATBASINI,
Dec. 3rd, 1904.

A new paper, the *Samajmitra*.

82. Referring to the suggestion of the *Uriya and Navasamvad* that the Tributary Chieftains of Orissa should follow the example of the Maharaja of Mourbhanj in connecting their *garhs* with the Bengal-Nagpur Railway by light railways, the same paper points out that it would be imprudent to embark on enterprises like these without knowing what profit, if any, the Maharaja of Mourbhanj makes out of the light railway in his State.

GARJATBASINI.

Construction of light railways
by the Orissa Chiefs.

83. The same paper is glad to learn that an Association, by name *Sahitya-sebini Samiti*, has been established at Sonepur in the Central Provinces with the object of giving an impetus to the cultivation of Uriya literature. The Raja of Sonepur and his Dewan are the recognised patrons of the Association.

GARJATBASINI.

Uriya literature in the Central
Provinces.

84. The same paper states that a branch of the Utkal Union Conference has been established at Sambalpur in the Central Provinces under the presidency of Rao Sahib Dasrathi Pujhari.

GARJATBASINI.

The Utkal Union Conference in
the Central Provinces.

85. The Kendrapara correspondent of the *Utkaladipika* [Cuttack] of the 3rd December states that the paddy crop has been greatly damaged by drought and that the other crops are expected to suffer from the same cause in that part of the Cuttack district.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Dec. 3rd, 1904.

The crops in Cuttack.

86. The same correspondent states that the cold is becoming more and more severe in that part of the Cuttack district.

UTKALDIPIKA,

87. According to the Puri correspondent of the same paper the general health of Puri town is good.

UTKALDIP. KA.

88. The same paper reports that branches of the Utkal Union Conference have been established in Biranarsingpur in Puri and in Anantapur in Kujang.

UTKALDIPIKA.

The Utkal Union Conference.

89. Referring to the fact that a large number of counterfeit coins are in circulation, the same paper points out that this is due to the depreciation of silver, whose value should be on a par with that of the rupee.

UTKALDIPIKA.

Counterfeit coins and the Gov.
ernment currency policy.

90. The same paper states that on the night of the 9th November last a burglary was committed in the house of the Hospital Assistant at Patamundai, that property valued at Rs. 600 was stolen, and that an attempt to commit a similar theft in the same house was made on the following night. The writer considers it strange that such criminal acts should be perpetrated in a house so near the police-station, and hopes that the local authorities will attend to this case in time.

UTKALDIPIKA.

A burglary case.

91. The same paper is glad to give publicity to the favourable remarks made by the Commissioner of Chhatisgarh regarding the Raja of Bamra during his tour through

UTKALDIPIKA.

The Raja of Bamra.

that State, and hopes that the Raja will thereby be encouraged to pursue his useful career with steadiness, and to equal or excel his father, who was an ornament of the past race of Indian princes.

UTKALDIPKA.
Dec. 3rd, 1904.

92. The same paper publishes the proceedings of a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Utkal Union Conference, in which it was resolved that only those students who are members of the Utkal Young Men's Association, will act as volunteers in connection with the ensuing annual meeting of the Utkal Union Conference, and hopes that the students will spare no pains in discharging the duties entrusted to them. The writer is aware that the Bengali students of the Utkal Young Men's Association resigned in a body as they had reason to fear that the Utkal Union Conference was hostile to the Cuttack branch of the Calcutta Science and Industrial Association.

UTKALDIPKA.

93. The same paper regrets to find that the chaukidars are not discharging their duties properly. They consider themselves to be the paid servants of Government, though the people supply funds for their maintenance. They have in a manner given up the night watch and, as a consequence, the villagers are without protection. The writer hopes that Government will soon attend to this matter.

UTKALDIPKA.

94. Referring to the administration report of the Mayurbhanj State for 1902-1903 which has been published and circulated for the information of the public, the same paper observes that though the State has progressed in education under the enlightened rule of the Maharaja, the figures published do not throw any light on the economic condition of the people. It is not clear what improvements have been made in agriculture and the industrial arts, though there is a general statement that trade is flourishing. The condition of the police is admittedly unsatisfactory, and though the administration is carried on by a number of educated men on the European system, it is doubtful whether such a system is suited to the requirements of the Orissa Garjats. The writer thinks that a qualified system of administration is more desirable in the Tributary States of Orissa, where the administrators are required to deal with men and women who are in different stages of civilisation, and are therefore not in a position to appreciate the benefits of an out-and-out European system.

UTKALDIPKA.

95. The same paper appreciates that part of the Gaekwar's speech, delivered lately in the Town Hall of Calcutta, wherein His Highness makes it clear that all industrial movements in India should be organised on a commercial basis. Those who collect subscriptions and donations to carry on such movements cannot be expected to accept that responsibility which naturally devolves on those who invest their money in risky or novel undertakings. The writer hopes that the leaders of the Calcutta Scientific and Industrial Association will profit by the advice of the Gaekwar and improve their status accordingly.

ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSAN,
Dec. 5th, 1904.

96. Referring to the new rules about the chaukidari system in Sylhet which were announced in the *Assam Gazette* of the 26th November last, the *Paridarsan* [Sylhet] of the 5th December remarks that the respectable classes do not care to be candidates for the post of panchayet, as they consider that it imposes a burden on the holders without any commensurate advantages. Government hopes to secure a better class of men for this post than those in office at present, by relieving the panchayets in future of the task of distributing wages to the chaukidars at the thanas, and by improving their status so as to make them a general mouthpiece of the village on all occasions. The new system will soon be put in operation and is likely to work better than the old one. But, unfortunately, many intentions of Government inspired by the best motives fail to produce the desired effect for want of proper support from the subordinate officials.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 17th December 1904.

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